THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Production of Oils and Oilseeds

1583. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's assessment about the production of oils and oil seeds this year; and

(b) how far the targets fixed thereby are likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) According to the preliminary estimates the production of oilseeds is estimated around 21.00 Million Tonnes and that of oils about 7.00 Million Tonnes.

(b) It is expected that the target of oilseeds production is likely to be achieved during the current year.

Legislation to Guarantee the Farmers' Right to Retain seeds

1584. SHRI AHMED MOHMED BHAI PATEL :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce a legislation to guarantee the farmers' the right to retain seeds from one crop to another;

(b) If so, whether it is also a fact that Government is also considering how best farmer can exchange seeds in the traditional manner;

(c) if so, to what extant this legislation would help the Indian farmers;

(d) whether the provisions of the Dunkel draft relating to agriculture subsidies, patent right and import of farm products would not affect India; and

(e) by what time the above legislation is likely to be introduced in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The draft legislation which is under preparation seeks to stimulate quality seed production and preserve the traditional right of the farmers to save, use, exchange, share and sell seeds on a non-commercial basis.

(d) and (e) The provisions of the GATT agreement on agriculture do not require India to make any changes in domestic agricultural policies including agricultural subsidies and provisions of minimum market access for imports, with regard to patent and Intellectual Property Rights, the member countries have been given the flexibility to design appropriate laws. We have opted for protection of our plant varities through an effective Sui-generis system and the proposed law will be introduced after completion of due procedures required for the same.

Rabi Crop

1585. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that though the sowing have occurred in 23-24 million hectares both last year and this year, yet experts are doubtful about good rabi crop;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is due to the shortage of electricity and fertilizers which contribute toward such a pessimistic opinion of experts; and

(d) if not, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir. The area covered under rabi foodgrain crops during 1992-93 was about 46.6 million hectares. During this year also area coverage under rabi foodgrains is likely to be normal and a good harvest is expected.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.